

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	CRIMINAL NO.
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**INFORMATION**

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES:

At all times pertinent to this Information:

1. The Defendant HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS was the Director of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, a local government agency within the meaning of federal law that received federal assistance in excess of \$10,000 within one-year of September, 2008. As Director of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS exercised discretionary decision-making authority on behalf of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, including reviewing and recommending contractors and construction projects for approval for Tax Increment Finance Notes, a financing method by which anticipated future gains in taxes are calculated to finance current improvements.

3. Based upon HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS' knowledge and position, the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority and municipal authorities relied upon

the recommendations of HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS and awarded Tax Increment Finance Notes to contractors and projects recommended by HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS.

4. During late 2007, HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS met with a contractor and with an associate of a consulting company at the office of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to discuss a Tax Increment Finance Note for a construction project being undertaken by the contractor. HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS, in his capacity as director of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, then met with the members of a Township Planning Commission for the purpose of recommending approval of a Tax Increment Finance Note to benefit the contractor. The Tax Increment Finance Note was thereafter awarded to the benefit of the contractor in an amount well in excess of \$5,000.

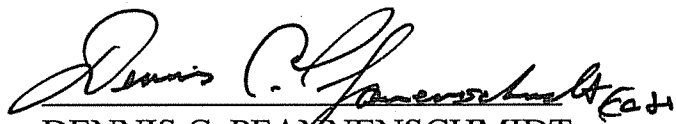
In or about September of 2008, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and within the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the defendant,

**HOWARD ALLEN BELLAS,**

in his capacity as the Director of the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority, did knowingly, intentionally and corruptly accept and agree to accept from another person, namely, the above-described contractor to whom a Tax Increment Finance Note was awarded in late 2007, cash in the amount of \$2,000, for the benefit of the

Defendant, intending to be influenced and rewarded in connection with the  
awarding of the Tax Increment Finance Note by the contractor.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 666(a)(1)(B).

  
DENNIS C. PFANNENSCHMIDT  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

10/15/09  
DATE

Joseph Nocito, Esquire  
63 Pierce Street  
Kingston, PA 18704  
283-0509